

Remarks

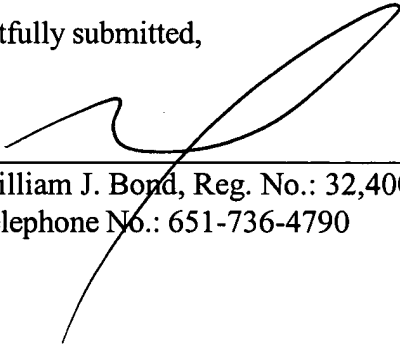
Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 33-35 (Examiner's claims 32-34) have been amended as suggested addressing the 35 USC §112 objections. It is submitted that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

With respect to the rejection over claim 36 (Examiner's claim 35), this claim has been amended to recite that the slicing of the filtration media by the hot wire directly forms a dimensionally stable three dimensional filter media. The claimed method uses the hot wire to bond the adjacent layers together to form a structurally rigid three dimensional filter directly from contoured film layers. None of the prior art references teaches or suggests such a method. In Kalt, the adjacent film layers are attached to each other via a non-conductive adhesive. There is no need for hot wire cutting to provide bonding between the layers as bonding is already provided. Such a combination with the secondary reference is inappropriate as there is no problem that needs to be solved. Kalt has already solved the problem. To modify Kalt to perform an additional bonding step would be superfluous. As such, the combination suggested is solely driven by the disclosure in Applicants' specification. This is clearly hindsight. The references themselves, not the Applicants' disclosure, must teach or suggest the combination. Merely because various elements found in the Applicants' claims can be randomly found in various references does not mean that the references can be combined in any imaginable manner to arrive at the claimed invention. The references themselves must be reviewed to see if they fairly suggest the combination. Since the layers in Kalt are already bonded together there would absolutely no reason for using the secondary references to bond the metalized film layers of Kalt by use of a hot wire. Further, none of the references teach or suggest bonding a three dimensional structure by use of hot wire to directly form a dimensionally stable filter medium.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the Claims**

[32] 33. (TWICE AMENDED) A method of forming a filtration media array comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a contoured polymeric dielectric film layer;
- (b) joining the contoured film layer to a second layer at at least one face of the contoured film layer so as to stabilize the contoured film layer and form flow channels and form a flow channel layer assembly; and
- (c) electrostaticly charging the flow channel layer assembly of the contoured film layer and the second layer with an electret charge to form a charged filtration media array.

[33] 34. (TWICE AMENDED) The method of forming a filtration media array of claim 33 further comprising layering multiple charged filtration media arrays formed by steps (a) - (c) so as to create a [filtration media array] filter having multiple flow channel layers.

[34] 35. The method of forming a filtration media array of claim 34 further comprising joining the adjacent flow channel layers by partially melting at least one face of the multilayer flow channel assembly.

[35] 36. (TWICE AMENDED) A method of forming a filtration media array comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a contoured polymeric film layer;
- (b) joining the contoured film layer to a second layer at least one face of the contoured film layer so as to stabilize the contoured film layer and form a series of adjacent flow channels and form a flow channel layer assembly;

(c) layering the flow channel layer assembly so as to create a filtration media array having multiple flow channel layers forming fluid pathways through the filtration media array; and

(d) slicing the filtration media array with a hot wire so as to fuse the adjacent layers forming the filtration media array and directly form a dimensionally stable three dimensional filter media.

[36] 37. The method of forming a filtration media array of claim 36 further comprising separating a portion of the filtration media array sliced by the hot wire .